

THINKING WITH NUMBERS

Lesson Descriptions

Using Front-End Numbers

Often when you can use an estimate for a computation, one of the easy ways to think is to use front-end numbers. For example, to estimate $42 + 65$, since $40 + 60$ is 100, the answer will be about 100. You might even note that the answer is slightly greater than 100. Depending on the context of the question you are trying to solve, that may be accurate enough to answer your question. For situations where the context of the question does not require a more accurate solution, ignoring all of the digits except the front-end digit can be very efficient.

Expected content outcomes include helping children learn:

- to make sense of using front-end numbers to estimate,
- to recognize that using front-end numbers to estimate can be strategically efficient, given the context of the question, and
- to become proficient in using front-end numbers to estimate.

